The present money to discharge the Iew,
He would not take it: neuer did I know
A creature that did beare the shape of man,
So keene and greedy to confound a man.
He plies the Duke at morning and at night,
And doth impeach the freedome of the state
If they deny him iustice. Twenty Merchants,
The Duke himselfe, and the Magnificoes
Of greatest port haue all perswaded with him,
But none can driue him from the enuious plea
Of forfeyture, of iustice, and his bond.
Iessica. When I was with him, I haue heard him sweare
To *Tuball* and to *Chus*, his Country-men,
That he would rather haue *Anthonios* flesh,
Then twenty times the value of the summe
That he did owe him: and I know my Lord,
If law, authority, and power deny not,
It will go hard with poore *Anthonio*.
Por. Is it your deare friend that is thus in trouble?
Bass. The deerest friend to me, the kindest man,
The best condition'd and vnwearied spirit
In doing courtesies: and one in whom
The ancient Romane honour more appeares,
Then any that drawes breath in *Italy*.
Por. What summe owes he the Iew?
Bass. For me three thousand Ducats.
Por. What no more, pay him six thousand & deface the bond,
Double sixe thousand, and then treble that,
Before a friend of this description
Shall lose a haire through *Bassanios* fault.
First go with me to Church, and call me wife,
And then away to *Venice* to your friend;
For neuer shall you lye by *Portias* side
With an vnquiet soule. You shall haue gold
To pay the petty debt twenty times ouer.
When it is paid, bring your true friend along;

My

My maide *Nerrissa*
Will liue as maides
For you shall hence
Bid your friends we
Since you are deere
But let me heare th

Sweet Bassanio,
cruell, my estate is ve
paying it, it is impos
you and I if I might
your pleasure; if you
Letter.
O Loue! dispatch a
Bass. Since I hau
I will make hast.
No bed shall ere be
No rest be interpos

Enter the

Iew. Iaylor, look
This is the foole tha
Iaylor, looke to hin
An. Heare me ye
Iew. Ile haue my
I haue sworne an o
Thou cald'st me do
But since I am a dog
The Duke shall gra
Thou naughty Iayl
To come abroad wi
An. I prethee he
Iew. Ile haue my
Ile haue my bond, a

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22297) LONDON, 1600 [1619] THE BRITIS